

**THE PASSION HISTORY
OF OUR
LORD JESUS CHRIST**

Evangelical Heritage Version™

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Preface

This Passion History weaves together the Wartburg Project translations of the four divinely inspired Gospel accounts of St. Matthew, St. Mark, St. Luke, and St. John. It is patterned after a Lutheran arrangement that was printed in both the *Lutheran Lectionary* of the former Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conference of North America, and *The Sufferings and Death of our Lord Jesus Christ* by John C. Lawrenz (Northwestern Publishing House, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, © 1988). The precise chronological placement of all accounts is not certain because the inspired Evangelists did not always place everything in strict chronological order.

A congregation may read the first lesson on Ash Wednesday and continue in that order as demonstrated in this chart.

Ash Wednesday	Passion History Lesson #1
Midweek Lenten Service #2	Passion History Lesson #2
Midweek Lenten Service #3	Passion History Lesson #3
Midweek Lenten Service #4	Passion History Lesson #4
Midweek Lenten Service #5	Passion History Lesson #5
Midweek Lenten Service #6	Passion History Lesson #6
Good Friday	Passion History Lesson #7

A congregation may use appointed Scripture lessons for Ash Wednesday and then read Passion History readings beginning with the next midweek Lenten service. This chart offers one option for doing this.

Ash Wednesday	Appointed Scripture Lessons
Midweek Lenten Service #2	Passion History Lesson #1
Midweek Lenten Service #3	Passion History Lesson #2
Midweek Lenten Service #4	Passion History Lesson #3
Midweek Lenten Service #5	Passion History Lesson #4
Midweek Lenten Service #6	Passion History Lesson #5
Good Friday	Passion History Lessons #6 & 7

Churches that have two services on Good Friday may use Lesson #6 in the first service and Lesson #7 in the second. Another alternative would be to read Lesson # 6 on Maundy Thursday and Lesson #7 on Good Friday.

Following the unified Passion History account are arrangements for a **Three Year Series** of lessons based on the three Synoptic Gospels (page 18).

Year A	Year B	Year C
Ash Wednesday lessons	Ash Wednesday lessons	Ash Wednesday lessons
Matthew 26:1-35	Mark 14:1-26	Luke 22:1-38
Matthew 26:36-56	Mark 14:27-42	Luke 22:39-54
Matthew 26:57-75	Mark 14:43-65	Luke 22:54-71
Matthew 27:1-26	Mark 14:66–15:15	Luke 23:1-25
Matthew 27:27-66	Mark 15:16-47	Luke 23:26-56

THE PASSION HISTORY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

LESSON ONE

The Festival of Unleavened Bread, which is called the Passover, was approaching. Jesus said to his disciples, “You know that after two days it will be the Passover, and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.”

Then the chief priests and the elders of the people assembled in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas. They plotted together how to arrest Jesus in some deceitful way and kill him. But they said, “Not during the Festival, or else there might be a riot among the people.”

Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, who was one of the Twelve. He went away and spoke with the chief priests and officers of the temple guard about how he could betray Jesus to them. They were glad and agreed to give him money. He promised to do it and was looking for an opportunity to betray Jesus to them away from the crowd.^a

On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples asked him, “Where do you want us to go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?” He sent two of his disciples and said to them, “Go into the city, and there a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. Wherever he enters, tell the owner of the house that the Teacher says, ‘Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ He will show you a large upper room, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.”

They went and found things just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover. When the hour had come, Jesus reclined at the table with the twelve apostles. He said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer, for I tell you, I will not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.”^b

A dispute arose among the disciples about which of them was considered to be greatest. But he told them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who have authority over them are called Benefactors. But it is not to be that way with you. Instead, let the greatest among you become like the youngest, and the one who leads like the one who serves. For who is greater, one who reclines at the table or one who serves? Isn’t it the one who reclines at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. You are those who have remained with me in my trials. I am going to grant a kingdom to you, just as my Father granted to me, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom. And you will sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”^c

^a Matthew 26:1-5; Mark 14:1-2; Luke 22:1-6

^b Matthew 26:17-20; Mark 14:12-17; Luke 22:7-17

^c Luke 22:24-30

Before the Passover Festival, Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved those who were his own in the world, he loved them to the end.^a

By the time the supper took place, the Devil had already put the idea into the heart of Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus.

Jesus knew that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God. He got up from the supper and laid aside his outer garment. He took a towel and tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

He came to Simon Peter, who asked him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

Jesus answered him, "You do not understand what I am doing now, but later you will understand."

Peter told him, "You will never, ever, wash my feet!"

Jesus replied, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with me."

"Lord, not just my feet," Simon Peter replied, "but also my hands and my head!"

Jesus told him, "A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet, but his body is completely clean. And you^b are clean, but not all of you." Indeed, he knew who was going to betray him. That is why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

After Jesus had washed their feet and put on his outer garment, he reclined at the table again. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me Teacher and Lord. You are right, because I am. Now if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. Yes, I have given you an example so that you also would do just as I have done for you. Amen, Amen,^c I tell you: A servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them."^d

He took a cup, gave thanks, and said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves, for I tell you, from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."^e

^a Or to the fullest extent

^b You is plural.

^c Usually people say *Amen* at the end of a prayer, but Jesus used this Hebrew word at the beginning of a statement, which was unique. The inspired writer simply transliterated the Hebrew word that Jesus spoke, instead of using a Greek term. This translation does the same in English. The basic meaning is *I solemnly tell you the truth*. Here it is emphasized by being used twice. See FAQ #1 at wartburgproject.org/faqs/

^d John 13:1-17

^e Luke 22:17-18

LESSON TWO

While they were reclining and eating, Jesus said, “Amen I tell you: One of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.” They were very sad and began to say to him one after another, “Surely, not I, Lord?”

He said to them, “It is one of the Twelve, one who is dipping bread with me in the dish. Indeed, the Son of Man is going to go just as it has been written about him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.”^a

After saying this, Jesus was troubled in his spirit and testified, “Amen, Amen, I tell you: One of you will betray me.”

The disciples were looking at each other, uncertain which of them he meant.

One of his disciples, the one Jesus loved, was reclining at Jesus’ side. Simon Peter motioned to him to find out which one Jesus was talking about.

So leaning back against Jesus’ side, he asked, “Lord, who is it?”

Jesus replied, “It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread, after I have dipped it in the dish.” Then he dipped the piece of bread and gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him.

So Jesus told him, “What you are about to do, do more quickly.”

None of those reclining at the table understood why Jesus said this to him. Because Judas kept the money box, some thought that Jesus was telling him, “Buy what we need for the Festival,” or to give something to the poor. As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night.

After Judas left, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in him.^b If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify the Son in himself and will glorify him at once.”^c

While they were eating, on the night when he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples. He said, “Take, eat, this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the new testament,^d which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”^e

“Dear children, I am going to be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come.

^a Matthew 26:21-25; Mark 14:18-21

^b Or *Now the Son of Man was glorified, and God was glorified in him.*

^c John 13:21-32

^d As in *last will and testament*. See Galatians 3:15.

^e Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

“A new commandment I give you: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, so also you are to love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, where are you going?”

Jesus answered, “Where I am going you cannot follow now, but you will follow later.”

Peter asked, “Lord, why can’t I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you!”

Jesus replied, “Will you really lay down your life for me? Simon, Simon, pay attention: Satan has asked to have you all, so that he may sift you as wheat. But I prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have returned to me, strengthen your brothers.”

Peter answered him, “Even if all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.”

Jesus said to him, “Amen I tell you: Tonight, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.”

Peter said to him, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you.” And all the disciples said the same.^a

He said to them, “When I sent you out without money bag, traveler’s bag, and sandals, did you lack anything?”

“Nothing,” they said.

Then he told them, “But now, let the one who has a money bag take it, and likewise a traveler’s bag. And let the one who has no sword sell his cloak and buy one. For I tell you that this Scripture must be fulfilled in me: ‘He was counted with transgressors.’^b Indeed, what is written about me is going to have its fulfillment.”

They said, “Lord, look, here are two swords.”

He said to them, “That is enough.”^c

Then Jesus said to them, “This night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’^d But after I have been raised, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.”^e

After they sang a hymn, Jesus went out with his disciples across the Kidron Valley, to the Mount of Olives, where there was a garden called Gethsemane. He and his disciples went into it. Now Judas, who was betraying him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples.^f

^a Matthew 26:33-35; Luke 22:31-34; John 13:33-38

^b Isaiah 53:12

^c Luke 22:35-38

^d Zechariah 13:7

^e Matthew 26:31-32

^f John 18:1-2; Matthew 26:30,36

When he reached the place, Jesus told his disciples, “Sit here, while I go over there and pray. Keep praying that you may not enter into temptation.”

Then he took Peter, James, and John along with him and began to be troubled and distressed. He said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow, even to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch.”

He withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, knelt down, and prayed, “Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours be done.”

When he rose from prayer, he went to the disciples and found them sleeping as a result of sorrow.

He said to Peter, “Simon, are you sleeping? Were you not strong enough to keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

He went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to pass from me unless I drink it, may your will be done.” Again he returned and found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what they should answer him.

He left them again, went away, and prayed a third time. He said the same words as before.

An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. As he was in agony, he prayed more fervently. His sweat became like great drops of blood falling to the ground.

Then he returned to his disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour is near, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise. Let us go. Look, my betrayer is near!”^a

^a Matthew 26:36-46; Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:39-46

LESSON THREE

While Jesus was still speaking, suddenly Judas (one of the Twelve) arrived. With him was a large crowd with lanterns, torches, swords, and clubs, who came from the chief priests and elders of the people. Judas was leading them.

Jesus, knowing everything that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, “Who are you looking for?”

“Jesus the Nazarene,” they replied.

“I am he,” Jesus told them.

Judas, the betrayer, was standing with them. When Jesus told them, “I am he,” they backed away and fell to the ground.

Then Jesus asked them again, “Who are you looking for?”

“Jesus the Nazarene,” they said.

“I told you that I am he,” Jesus replied. “So if you are looking for me, let these men go.” This was to fulfill the statement he had spoken: “I did not lose any of those you have given me.”

Now the betrayer had given them a sign: “The one I kiss is the man. Arrest him.” Immediately he went to Jesus and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed him.

Jesus said to him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”

Then they advanced, took hold of Jesus, and arrested him. When those who were around him saw what was about to happen, they said to him, “Lord, should we strike with a sword?” Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest’s servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant’s name was Malchus.

But Jesus responded, “Stop! No more of this! Put your sword back into its place, because all who take the sword will die by the sword. Do you not realize that I could call on my Father, and at once he would provide me with more than twelve legions^a of angels? But then how would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen this way?” Then he touched the servant’s ear and healed him.

At that same time Jesus said to the crowd, “Have you come out to arrest me with swords and clubs as if I were a robber? Day after day I was sitting in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me. But all this has happened so that the writings of the prophets would be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.^b

The company of soldiers, their commander, and the Jewish guards arrested Jesus and bound him. First they led him to Annas, because he was father-in-law to Caiaphas, who was the high priest that year. Now it was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews, “It is better that one man die for the people.”

^a A Roman *legion* contained as many as six thousand soldiers.

^b Matthew 26:47-56; Mark 14:43-52; Luke 22:47-54; John 18:1-14

Simon Peter and another disciple kept following Jesus. That disciple was known to the high priest, so he went into the high priest's courtyard with Jesus. But Peter stood outside by the door. So the other disciple, the one known to the high priest, went out and talked to the girl watching the door and brought Peter in.

The servants and guards were standing around a fire of coals that they had made because it was cold. While they warmed themselves, Peter was standing with them, warming himself too.^a

One of the servant girls of the high priest came there. When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked directly at him and said, "You were also with Jesus the Galilean."

But he denied it in front of everyone, saying, "I don't know what you are talking about. Woman, I do not know him."

When Peter went out to the entryway, someone else saw him and said to those who were there, "This is one of them. This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth."

Again Peter denied it with an oath and said, "I do not know the man."

After a little while those who stood by came and said to Peter, "Surely you are also one of them, because even your accent gives you away. You are a Galilean!"

Then he began to curse and to swear, "I do not know this man you are talking about! I do not know the man!"

At that very moment, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the Lord's word, how he had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today you will deny me three times." He went outside, broke down, and wept bitterly.^b

The high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching.

Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world. I always taught in a synagogue or at the temple, where all the Jews gather. I said nothing in secret. Why are you questioning me? Ask those who heard what I told them. Look, they know what I said."

When he said this, one of the guards standing there hit Jesus in the face. "Is that how you answer the high priest?" he demanded.

"If I said something wrong," Jesus answered, "testify about what was wrong. But if I was right, why did you hit me?"^c

The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they could put him to death. They found none, even though many false witnesses came forward. Finally two came forward and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.'" Yet even on this point, their testimony did not agree.

The high priest stood up and said to him, "Have you no answer? What is this that

^a John 18:12-18

^b Matthew 26:69-75; Mark 14:66-72; Luke 22:54-62; John 18:15-18, 25-27

^c John 18:19-23

these men are testifying against you?” But Jesus remained silent. Then the high priest said to him, “I place you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God!”

Jesus said to him, “It is as you have said. But I tell you, soon you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

Then the high priest tore his robes and said, “He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? See, you have just heard the blasphemy! What do you think?”

They answered, “He is deserving of death!” Then some began to spit on him. They covered his face, struck him with their fists, and said, “Prophecy to us, Christ! Who hit you?” The guards also took him and beat him. And they went on saying many other blasphemous things against him.^a

^a Matthew 26:59-68; Mark 14:53-65; Luke 22:65

LESSON FOUR

As soon as it was day, the council of the elders of the people met together, both chief priests and experts in the law. They brought Jesus into their Sanhedrin and said, “If you are the Christ, tell us.”

But he said to them, “If I tell you, you will not believe, and if I ask you, you will not answer me or release me. But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God.”^a

They all said, “Are you then the Son of God?”

He said to them, “I am what you are saying.”

Then they said, “Why do we need any more testimony? For we ourselves have heard it from his own mouth!” Then the chief priests with the elders and experts in the law, together with the whole Sanhedrin, reached a decision. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pontius Pilate, the governor.^b

Then when Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he felt remorse. He brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders and said, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.” But they said, “What is that to us? That’s your problem.”

He threw the pieces of silver into the temple and left. Then he went out and hanged himself. The chief priests took the pieces of silver and said, “It is not lawful to put these into the treasury, since it is blood money.” They reached a decision to buy the potter’s field with the money, as a burial place for foreigners. So that field has been called The Field of Blood to this day. Then what was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:

They took the thirty pieces of silver, the price the sons of Israel had set for him, and they gave them for the potter’s field, just as the Lord commanded me.^c

Early in the morning, the Jews led Jesus from Caiaphas to the Praetorium. They did not enter the Praetorium themselves, so that they would not become ceremonially unclean. (They wanted to be able to eat the Passover meal.) So Pilate went out to them and said, “What charge do you bring against this man?”

They answered him, “If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you.”

Pilate told them, “Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law.”

The Jews said, “It’s not legal for us to put anyone to death.” This happened so that the statement Jesus had spoken indicating what kind of death he was going to die would be fulfilled.^d

^a Psalm 110:1

^b Luke 22:66-23:1; Mark 15:1; Matthew 27:2

^c Matthew 27:3-10; see Zechariah 11:12-13; Jeremiah 19:1-13; 32:6-9

^d John 18:28-32

They began to accuse him, saying, “We found this fellow misleading our nation, forbidding the payment of taxes to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king.”

Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?”

“It is as you say,” Jesus replied.^a

The chief priests accused him of many things. When he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing.

Pilate questioned him again, “Are you not going to answer anything? See how many charges they are bringing against you!”

But Jesus still did not answer anything, so Pilate was amazed.

Pilate went back into the Praetorium and summoned Jesus. He asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?”

Jesus answered, “Are you saying this on your own, or did others tell you about me?”

Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?”

Jesus replied, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would fight so that I would not be handed over to the Jews. But now my kingdom is not from here.”

“You are a king then?” Pilate asked.

Jesus answered, “I am, as you say, a king. For this reason I was born, and for this reason I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”

“What is truth?” Pilate said to him.

After he said this, he went out again to the Jews and told them, “I find no basis for a charge against him.”^b

But they kept insisting, “He stirs up the people, teaching all through Judea, beginning from Galilee all the way here.”

When Pilate heard this, he asked if the man was a Galilean. When he learned that he was under Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem during those days.

When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad. For a long time he had wanted to see him, because he had heard many things about him. He hoped to see some miracle performed by him. He questioned him with many words, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and the experts in the law stood there, vehemently accusing him. Herod, along with his soldiers, treated him with contempt and ridiculed him. Dressing him in bright clothing, Herod sent Jesus back to Pilate. Herod and Pilate became friends with each other on that day. Before this they had been enemies of each other.^c

^a Luke 23:2-3

^b Matthew 27:11-14; Mark 15:1-5; Luke 23:1-4; John 18:28-38

^c Luke 23:4-12

LESSON FIVE

Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people, and said to them, “You brought this man to me as one who is misleading the people. Look, I have examined him in your presence. I have found in this man no basis for the charges you are bringing against him. Herod did not either, for he sent him back to us. See, he has done nothing worthy of death. So I will have him flogged and release him.”^a

At the time of the Festival the governor had a custom to release to the crowd any one prisoner they wanted. At that time they were holding a notorious prisoner named Barabbas, who had been thrown in prison for a rebellion in the city and for murder. The crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do for them what he usually did.

So when they were assembled, Pilate said to them, “Do you want me to release the King of the Jews to you? Which one do you want me to release to you? Barabbas—or Jesus, who is called Christ?” For Pilate in fact knew that they had handed Jesus over to him because of envy.

While he was sitting on the judgment seat, Pilate’s wife sent him a message. “Have nothing to do with that righteous man,” she said, “since I have suffered many things today in a dream because of him.” But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus put to death. The governor asked them, “Which of the two do you want me to release to you?”

They all shouted together with one voice: “Take him away! Release Barabbas to us!”

Pilate said to them, “Then what do you want me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews? What should I do with Jesus, who is called Christ?”

They all said to him, “Crucify him!”

But the governor said, “Why? What has he done wrong?”

But they kept shouting even louder: “Crucify him!”

Pilate addressed them again, because he wanted to release Jesus. But they kept shouting, “Crucify! Crucify him!”

He said to them the third time, “Why? What evil has he done? I have found no grounds for sentencing him to death. So I will whip him and release him.” But they kept pressuring him with loud voices, demanding that he be crucified. And their voices were overwhelming.^b

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged.^c

The governor’s soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole cohort^d of soldiers around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him. They twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They put a staff in his right

^a Luke 23:13-16

^b Matthew 27:15-23; Mark 15:6-14; Luke 23:17-23; John 18:39-40

^c John 19:1; Matthew 27:26; Mark 15:15

^d A Roman *cohort* was about six hundred soldiers.

hand, knelt in front of him, and mocked him by saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” They spit on him, took the staff, and hit him repeatedly on his head. They also kept hitting him in the face.^a

Pilate went outside again and said to them, “Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him.”

So Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, “Behold the man!”

When the chief priests and guards saw him, they shouted, “Crucify! Crucify!”

Pilate told them, “Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no basis for a charge against him.”

The Jews answered him, “We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die, because he claimed to be the Son of God.”

When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. He went back inside the palace again and asked Jesus, “Where are you from?”

But Jesus gave him no answer.

So Pilate asked him, “Are you not talking to me? Don’t you know that I have the authority to release you or to crucify you?”

Jesus answered, “You would have no authority over me at all if it had not been given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you has the greater sin.”

From then on Pilate tried to release Jesus. But the Jews shouted, “If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar! Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar!”

When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside. He sat down on the judge’s seat at a place called the Stone Pavement, or Gabbatha in Aramaic. It was about the sixth hour^b on the Preparation Day for the Passover. Pilate said to the Jews, “Here is your king!”

They shouted, “Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!”

Pilate said to them, “Should I crucify your king?”

“We have no king but Caesar!” the chief priests answered.^c

When Pilate saw that he was accomplishing nothing and that instead it was turning into a riot, he decided that what they demanded would be done. He took water, washed his hands in front of the crowd, and said, “I am innocent of this righteous man’s blood. It is your responsibility.”

^a Matthew 27:27-30; Mark 15:16-19; Luke 23:17-25; John 19:2-3

^b The word *about* indicates an approximate time reference. Likely this was in the first part of the day, between 6 AM and 9 AM, using the time system of the Roman civil day, which began at 12 midnight. Mark 15:25 states that Jesus was crucified at 9 AM. John also seems to use Roman civil time to calculate the day in John 20:19 (because the evening is considered part of the *first day of the week*. Jewish time regarded sunset as the beginning of the next day).

^c John 19:4-15

And all the people answered, “Let his blood be on us and on our children!”

Since he wanted to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them.

So then Pilate handed Jesus over to them to be crucified.^a

After they had mocked him, the soldiers took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. Jesus was carrying his own cross.

As they were going out of the city, a certain man, Simon of Cyrene (the father of Alexander and Rufus), was passing by on his way in from the country. They placed the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. A large crowd of the people was following him, including women who were mourning and wailing for him.

Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, stop weeping for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. Be sure of this: The days are coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the childless women, the wombs that never gave birth, and the breasts that never nursed.’ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us!’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’^b For if they do these things to the green wood, what will happen to the dry?”^c

^a Matthew 27:24-26; Mark 15:15; Luke 23:24; John 19:16

^b Hosea 10:8

^c Matthew 27:31-32; Mark 15:16-19; Luke 23:26-31; John 19:16-17

LESSON SIX

Two other men, who were criminals, were led away with Jesus to be executed. They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha, which means, “The place of a skull.” They offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. They crucified him there with the criminals, one on his right and the other on his left.

Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”

Now it was the third hour^a when they crucified him.

Pilate also had a notice written and fastened on the cross. It read, “Jesus the Nazarene, the King of the Jews.”

Many of the Jews read this notice, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, Latin, and Greek.

So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but that ‘this man said, ‘I am the King of the Jews.’””

Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.”

When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier. They also took his tunic, which was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. So they said to one another, “Let’s not tear it. Instead, let’s cast lots to see who gets it.” This was so that the Scripture might be fulfilled which says:

They divided my garments among them
and cast lots for my clothing.^b

So the soldiers did these things. Then they sat down and were keeping watch over him there.

People who passed by kept insulting him, shaking their heads and saying, “You who were going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross!”

Those who were crucified with him also insulted him. In the same way the chief priests, experts in the law, and elders kept mocking him. They said, “He saved others, but he cannot save himself. If he’s the King of Israel, let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now, if he wants him, because he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’”^c

One of the criminals hanging there was blaspheming him, saying, “Aren’t you the Christ? Save yourself and us!”

But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God, since you are under the same condemnation? We are punished justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for

^a 9 AM

^b Psalm 22:18

^c Matthew 27:33-43; Mark 15:20-32; Luke 23:26-38; John 19:16-24

what we have done, but this man has done nothing wrong.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me^a when you come in^b your kingdom.”

Jesus said to him, “Amen I tell you: Today you will be with me in paradise.”^c

Jesus’ mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene were standing near the cross.

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son!” Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother!” And from that time this disciple took her into his own home.^d

It was now about the sixth hour,^e and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour,^f while the sun was darkened.

At the ninth hour Jesus shouted with a loud voice, “*Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?*” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”^g

When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “Listen, he’s calling Elijah!”

After this, knowing that everything had now been finished, and to fulfill the Scripture, Jesus said, “I thirst.”

A jar full of sour wine was sitting there. Immediately one of them ran, took a sponge, and soaked it with sour wine. Then he put it on a stick and gave him a drink.

When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished!”

Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!”^h When he had said this, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Suddenly the temple curtain was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and rocks were split. Tombs were opened, and many bodies of saints who had fallen asleep were raised to life. Those who came out of the tombs went into the holy city after Jesus’ resurrection and appeared to many people. When the centurion and those who were guarding Jesus with him saw the earthquake and how he cried out with a loud voice and breathed his last, they were terrified and began to glorify God, saying, “This man really was righteous. Truly this was the Son of God.”

When all the groups of people who had gathered to see this spectacle saw what had happened, they returned home beating their chests. All those who knew Jesus, and many women who had followed Jesus from Galilee and who had served him, were there, watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, Salome, and the mother of Zebedee’s sons.

^a Some witnesses to the text read *Then he said to Jesus, “Remember me, Lord. . . .”*

^b A few witnesses to the text read *into*.

^c Luke 23:39-43

^d John 19:25-27

^e Jewish time began with sunrise, so the sixth hour was about noon.

^f 3 PM

^g Psalm 22:1

^h Psalm 31:5

Since it was the Preparation Day, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the crosses over the Sabbath (because that Sabbath was a particularly important day). They asked Pilate to have the men's legs broken and the bodies taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man who was crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other man.

But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear. Immediately blood and water came out. The one who saw it has testified, and his testimony is true. He knows that he is telling the truth, so that you also may believe. Indeed, these things happened so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, "Not one of his bones will be broken."^a Again another Scripture says, "They will look at the one they pierced."^b

^a Exodus 12:46; Numbers 9:12

^b Matthew 27:45-56; Mark 15:33-41; Luke 23:44-49; John 19:28-37; Zechariah 12:10

LESSON SEVEN

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathaea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews. Joseph of Arimathaea, a prominent member of the council, was a good and righteous man. He had not agreed with their plan and action. He was looking forward to the kingdom of God. He boldly went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

Pilate was surprised that Jesus was already dead. He summoned the centurion and asked him if Jesus had been dead for a long time. When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he granted the body to Joseph. Joseph bought a linen cloth, came, and took Jesus' body away. Nicodemus, who earlier had come to Jesus at night, also came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-two pounds.^a

They took Jesus' body and bound it with linen strips along with the spices, in accord with Jewish burial customs.

There was a garden at the place where Jesus was crucified. And in the garden was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. So they laid Jesus there, because it was the Jewish Preparation Day, and the tomb was near. Joseph took the body and laid it in his own new tomb that he had cut in the rock. He rolled a large stone over the tomb's entrance and left.

The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed after Joseph, and they observed the tomb and how Jesus' body was laid there. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses were watching where the body was laid. ⁵⁶Then they returned and prepared spices and perfumes. On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.^b

On the next day, which was the day after the Preparation Day, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered in the presence of Pilate and said, "Sir, we remembered what that deceiver said while he was still alive: 'After three days I will rise again.' So give a command that the tomb be made secure until the third day. Otherwise his disciples might steal his body and tell the people, 'He is risen from the dead.' And this last deception will be worse than the first."

Pilate said to them, "You have a guard. Go, make it as secure as you know how." So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and posting a guard.^c

^a Literally *one hundred litras*. Greek *litra* is the Roman pound (327.45 grams or 11.55 ounces, by weight).

^b Matthew 27:57-61; Mark 14:42-47; Luke 23:50-56; John 19:38-42

^c Matthew 27:62-66

Three Year Series of Lessons

Year A	Year B	Year C
Ash Wednesday lessons	Ash Wednesday lessons	Ash Wednesday lessons
Matthew 26:1-35	Mark 14:1-26	Luke 22:1-38
Matthew 26:36-56	Mark 14:27-42	Luke 22:39-54
Matthew 26:57-75	Mark 14:43-65	Luke 22:54-71
Matthew 27:1-26	Mark 14:66–15:15	Luke 23:1-25
Matthew 27:27-66	Mark 15:16-47	Luke 23:26-56

YEAR A

Week One: Ash Wednesday lessons are available at wartburgproject.org

Week Two: Matthew 26:1-35

The Plot to Kill Jesus

(Mark 14:1-2; Luke 22:1-2; John 11:45-57)

When Jesus had finished saying all these things, he said to his disciples, ²“You know that after two days it will be the Passover, and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.”

³Then the chief priests and the elders of the people assembled in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas. ⁴They plotted together how to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him. ⁵But they said, “Not during the Festival, or else there might be a riot among the people.”

Mary Anoints Jesus

(Mark 14:3-9; John 12:1-8)

⁶When Jesus was in Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper, ⁷a woman approached him holding an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume. She poured it on his head as he was reclining at the table. ⁸But when his disciples saw this, they were upset and said, “Why this waste? ⁹This perfume could have been sold for a lot of money and given to the poor.”

¹⁰Jesus was aware of this and said to them, “Why are you causing trouble for this woman? She has done a beautiful thing for me. ¹¹You are always going to have the poor with you, but you are not always going to have me. ¹²When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial. ¹³Amen^a I tell you: Wherever this gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told in memory of her.”

Judas Plans to Betray Jesus

(Mark 14:10-11; Luke 22:3-6)

¹⁴Then one of the Twelve, the one named Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests ¹⁵and said, “What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?” They paid him thirty pieces of silver. ¹⁶From that time on Judas was looking for an opportunity to betray Jesus.

Jesus Celebrates the Passover

(Mark 14:12-17; Luke 22:7-17)

¹⁷On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?”

¹⁸He said, “Go into the city to a certain man and tell him the Teacher says, ‘My time is near. I will observe the Passover with my disciples at your house.’”

¹⁹The disciples did as Jesus commanded them and prepared the Passover. ²⁰When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve.^b

One Will Betray Jesus

(Mark 14:18-21; Luke 22:21-23; John 13:21-30)

²¹As they were eating, he said, “Amen I tell you: One of you will betray me.”

²²They were very sad and began to say to him one after another, “Surely, not I, Lord?”

²³He replied, “The one who dipped his hand in the bowl with me will betray me. ²⁴The Son of Man is going just as it is written about him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would be better for that man if he had not been born.”

²⁵Judas, who betrayed him, replied, “Surely, not I, Rabbi?”

^a Usually people say *Amen* at the end of a prayer, but Jesus used this Hebrew word at the beginning of a statement, which was unique. The inspired writer simply transliterated the Hebrew word that Jesus spoke, instead of using a Greek term. This translation does the same in English. The basic meaning is *I solemnly tell you the truth*. See FAQ #1 at wartburgproject.org/faqs/

^b20 Some witnesses to the text add *disciples*.

He said to him, “Yes, you are the one.”^a

The Lord’s Supper

(Mark 14:22-26; Luke 22:18-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25)

²⁶While they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples. He said, “Take, eat, this is my body.” ²⁷Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it all of you, ²⁸for this is my blood of the new^b testament,^c which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹I tell you that I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.” ³⁰After they sang a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Jesus Predicts Peter’s Denial

(Mark 14:27-31; Luke 22:31-34; John 13:36-38)

³¹Then Jesus said to them, “This night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’^d ³²But after I have been raised, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.”

³³Peter answered him, “Even if all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.”

³⁴Jesus said to him, “Amen I tell you: Tonight before the rooster crows you will deny me three times.”

³⁵Peter said to him, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you.” And all the disciples said the same.

^a25 Or *It is what you yourself said, or You have said it yourself.*

^b28 A few early witnesses to the text omit *new*.

^c28 As in *last will and testament*. See Galatians 3:15.

^d31 Zechariah 13:7

Week Three: Matthew 26:36-56

Gethsemane

(Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:39-46)

³⁶Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane. He told his disciples, “Sit here, while I go over there and pray.” ³⁷He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and he began to be sorrowful and distressed. ³⁸Then he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to the point of death. Stay here, and keep watch with me.”

³⁹He went a little farther, fell on his face, and prayed. He said, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”

⁴⁰He came to the disciples and found them sleeping. He said to Peter, “So, were you not able to stay awake with me for one hour? ⁴¹Watch and pray, so that you do not enter into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

⁴²He went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to pass from me^a unless I drink it, may your will be done.” ⁴³Again he returned and found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴He left them again, went away, and prayed a third time. He said the same words as before. ⁴⁵Then he returned to his disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour is near, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶Rise. Let us go. Look, my betrayer is near.”

The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus

(Mark 14:43-52; Luke 22:47-54; John 18:1-14)

⁴⁷While Jesus was still speaking, suddenly Judas (one of the Twelve) arrived. With him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, who came from the chief priests and elders of the people. ⁴⁸Now the betrayer had given them a sign: “The one I kiss is the man. Arrest him.” ⁴⁹Immediately he went to Jesus and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed him.

⁵⁰Jesus said to him, “Friend, why are you here?”

Then they advanced, took hold of Jesus, and arrested him. ⁵¹Suddenly, one of the men with Jesus reached out his hand, drew his sword, and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear. ⁵²Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place, because all who take the sword will die by the sword. ⁵³Do you not realize that I could call on my Father, and at once he would provide me with more than twelve legions^b of angels? ⁵⁴But then how would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen this way?”

⁵⁵At that same time Jesus said to the crowd, “Have you come out to arrest me with swords and clubs as if I were a robber? Day after day I was sitting in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me. ⁵⁶But all this has happened so that the writings of the prophets would be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

^a42 Some witnesses to the text omit *from me*.

^b53 A Roman *legion* contained as many as six thousand soldiers.

Week Four: Matthew 26:57-75

Jesus' First Trial in the Sanhedrin

(Mark 14:53-65)

⁵⁷Those who had arrested Jesus led him away to Caiaphas, the high priest, where the experts in the law and the elders were assembled. ⁵⁸Peter was following him at a distance and went as far as the courtyard of the high priest. He went inside and sat down with the guards to see how it would turn out.

⁵⁹The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they could put him to death. ⁶⁰They found none, even though many false witnesses came forward. Finally two came forward ⁶¹and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.'"

⁶²The high priest stood up and said to him, "Have you no answer? What is this that these men are testifying against you?" ⁶³But Jesus remained silent. Then the high priest said to him, "I place you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God!"

⁶⁴Jesus said to him, "It is as you have said. But I tell you, soon you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power and coming on the clouds of heaven."

⁶⁵Then the high priest tore his robes and said, "He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? See, you have just heard the blasphemy! ⁶⁶What do you think?"

They answered, "He is deserving of death!" ⁶⁷Then they spit in his face and punched him. Some slapped him ⁶⁸and said, "Prophecy to us, Christ! Who hit you?"

Peter Denies Jesus

(Mark 14:66-72; Luke 22:54-62; John 18:15-18,25-27)

⁶⁹Meanwhile Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant girl came to him and said, "You were also with Jesus the Galilean."

⁷⁰But he denied it in front of everyone, saying, "I don't know what you're talking about."

⁷¹When Peter went out to the entryway, someone else saw him and said to those who were there, "This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth."

⁷²Again Peter denied it with an oath and said, "I do not know the man."

⁷³After a little while those who stood by came and said to Peter, "Surely you are also one of them because even your accent gives you away."

⁷⁴Then he began to curse and to swear, "I do not know the man!" Just then the rooster crowed. ⁷⁵And Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

Week Five: Matthew 27:1-26

Early in the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people reached the decision to put Jesus to death. ²They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pontius Pilate, the governor.

The End of Judas

³Then when Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he felt remorse. He brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders ⁴and said, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.” But they said, “What is that to us? That’s your problem.”

⁵He threw the pieces of silver into the temple and left. Then he went out and hanged himself. ⁶The chief priests took the pieces of silver and said, “It is not lawful to put these into the treasury, since it is blood money.” ⁷They reached a decision to buy the potter’s field with the money, as a burial place for foreigners. ⁸So that field has been called The Field of Blood to this day. ⁹Then what was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:

They took the thirty pieces of silver, the price the sons of Israel had set for him, ¹⁰and they gave them for the potter’s field, just as the Lord commanded me.^a

Jesus’ Trial in Pilate’s Court

(Mark 15:1-5; Luke 23:1-4; John 18:28-38)

¹¹When Jesus stood in the presence of the governor, the governor asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?”

Jesus said to him, “It is as you say.”

¹²When he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing. ¹³Then Pilate said to him, “Don’t you hear how many things they are testifying against you?”

¹⁴But he did not answer him—not even one word, so that the governor was very surprised.

Barabbas or Jesus?

(Mark 15:6-15; Luke 23:17-25; John 18:39-40)

¹⁵At the time of the Festival the governor had a custom to release to the crowd any one prisoner they wanted. ¹⁶At that time they were holding a notorious prisoner named Barabbas. ¹⁷So when they were assembled, Pilate said to them, “Which one do you want me to release to you? Barabbas—or Jesus, who is called Christ?” ¹⁸For Pilate knew that they had handed Jesus over to him because of envy.

¹⁹While he was sitting on the judgment seat, Pilate’s wife sent him a message. “Have nothing to do with that righteous man,” she said, “since I have suffered many things today in a dream because of him.” ²⁰But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus put to death. ²¹The governor asked them, “Which of the two do you want me to release to you?”

“Barabbas!” they said.

²²Pilate said to them, “Then what should I do with Jesus, who is called Christ?”

They all said to him, “Crucify him!”

²³But the governor said, “Why? What has he done wrong?”

But they kept shouting even louder: “Crucify him!”

²⁴When Pilate saw that he was accomplishing nothing and that instead it was turning into a riot, he took water, washed his hands in front of the crowd, and said, “I am innocent of this righteous man’s blood. It is your responsibility.”

²⁵And all the people answered, “Let his blood be on us and on our children!”

²⁶Then he released Barabbas to them, but he had Jesus flogged and handed him over to be crucified.

^a9-10 See Zechariah 11:12-13; Jeremiah 19:1-13; 32:6-9.

Week Six: Matthew 27:27-66

Soldiers Mock Jesus

(Mark 15:16-19; John 19:1-3)

²⁷Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole cohort^a of soldiers around him. ²⁸They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him. ²⁹They twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand, knelt in front of him, and mocked him by saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ³⁰They spit on him, took the staff, and hit him repeatedly on his head.

The Crucifixion

(Mark 15:20-32; Luke 23:26-43; John 19:16-27)

³¹After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

³²As they were going out of the city, they found a man of Cyrene named Simon. They forced him to carry Jesus' cross. ³³They came to a place called Golgotha, which means, "The place of the skull." ³⁴They offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. ³⁵After they had crucified him, they divided his clothing among themselves by casting lots. ³⁶Then they sat down and were keeping watch over him there. ³⁷Above his head they posted the written charge against him: "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

³⁸At the same time two criminals were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁹People who passed by kept insulting him, shaking their heads ⁴⁰and saying, "You who were going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross!"

⁴¹In the same way the chief priests, experts in the law, and elders kept mocking him. They said, ⁴²"He saved others, but he cannot save himself. If he's the King of Israel, let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. ⁴³He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now, if he wants him, because he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" ⁴⁴In the same way even the criminals who were crucified with him kept insulting him.

Jesus' Death

(Mark 15:33-41; Luke 23:44-49; John 19:28-37)

⁴⁵From the sixth hour until the ninth hour,^b there was darkness over all the land. ⁴⁶About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"^c

⁴⁷When some of those standing there heard this, they said, "This fellow is calling for Elijah."

⁴⁸Immediately one of them ran, took a sponge, and soaked it with sour wine. Then he put it on a stick and gave him a drink. ⁴⁹The rest said, "Leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to save him."

⁵⁰After Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. ⁵¹Suddenly, the temple curtain was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and rocks were split. ⁵²Tombs were opened, and many bodies of saints who had fallen asleep were raised to life. ⁵³Those who came out of the tombs went into the holy city after Jesus' resurrection and appeared to many people. ⁵⁴When the centurion and those who were guarding Jesus with him saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they were terrified and said, "Truly this was the Son of God."

⁵⁵Many women who had followed Jesus from Galilee and who had served him were there, watching from a distance. ⁵⁶Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and

^a27 A Roman *cohort* was about six hundred soldiers.

^b45 From noon to 3 PM

^c46 Psalm 22:1

Joseph, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.

Jesus' Burial

(Mark 15:42-47; Luke 23:50-56; John 19:38-42)

⁵⁷When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered that it be given to him. ⁵⁹Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, ⁶⁰and laid it in his own new tomb that he had cut in the rock. He rolled a large stone over the tomb's entrance and left. ⁶¹Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there sitting opposite the tomb.

The Guard

⁶²On the next day, which was the day after the Preparation Day, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered in the presence of Pilate ⁶³and said, "Sir, we remembered what that deceiver said while he was still alive: 'After three days I will rise again.' ⁶⁴So give a command that the tomb be made secure until the third day. Otherwise his disciples might steal his body and tell the people, 'He is risen from the dead.' And this last deception will be worse than the first."

⁶⁵Pilate said to them, "You have a guard. Go, make it as secure as you know how." ⁶⁶So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and posting a guard.

Three Year Series of lessons

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YEAR B

Week One: Ash Wednesday lessons are available at wartburgproject.org

Week Two: Mark 14:1-26

The Plot to Kill Jesus

(Matthew 26:1-5; Luke 22:1-2; John 11:45-57)

It was two days before the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the experts in the law were looking for some deceptive way to arrest Jesus and kill him. ²“Certainly not during the Festival,” they said, “or there will be a riot among the people.”

Mary Anoints Jesus

(Matthew 26:6-13; John 12:1-8)

³While Jesus was in Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper, as he was reclining at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made from pure nard. She broke the alabaster jar and poured it over his head. ⁴But there were some who were indignant and said to one another, “Why has this perfume been wasted? ⁵Certainly this perfume could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii^a and given to the poor!” And they began to scold her.

⁶But Jesus said, “Leave her alone. Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing for me. ⁷In fact, you always have the poor with you, and whenever you want, you can do good for them. But you are not always going to have me. ⁸She did what she could. She anointed my body beforehand for burial. ⁹Amen^b I tell you: Wherever the gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman did will also be told in memory of her.”

Judas Plans to Betray Jesus

(Matthew 26:14-16; Luke 22:3-6)

¹⁰Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray Jesus to them. ¹¹When they heard this, they were glad and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

Jesus Celebrates the Passover

(Matthew 26:17-20; Luke 22:7-17)

¹²On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples asked him, “Where do you want us to go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?” ¹³He sent two of his disciples and said to them, “Go into the city, and there a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. ¹⁴Wherever he enters, tell the owner of the house that the Teacher says, ‘Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ ¹⁵He will show you a large upper room, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.”

¹⁶His disciples left and went into the city and found things just as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover.

¹⁷When it was evening, he arrived with the Twelve.

One Will Betray Jesus

(Matthew 26:21-25; Luke 22:21-23; John 13:21-30)

¹⁸While they were reclining and eating, Jesus said, “Amen I tell you: One of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.”

¹⁹They began to be sorrowful and said to him one by one, “Surely not I?”

^a5 A *denarius* was worth about one day’s wage.

^b Usually people say *Amen* at the end of a prayer, but Jesus used this Hebrew word at the beginning of a statement, which was unique. The inspired writer simply transliterated the Hebrew word that Jesus spoke, instead of using a Greek term. This translation does the same in English. The basic meaning is *I solemnly tell you the truth*. See FAQ #1 at wartburgproject.org/faqs/

²⁰He said to them, “It is one of the Twelve, one who is dipping bread with me in the dish. ²¹Indeed, the Son of Man is going to go just as it has been written about him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.”

The Lord's Supper

(Matthew 26:26-30; Luke 22:18-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25)

²²While they were eating, Jesus took bread. When he had blessed it, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “Take it.^a This is my body.”

²³Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them. They all drank from it. ²⁴He said to them, “This is my blood of the new testament,^b which is poured out for many. ²⁵Amen I tell you: I will certainly not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it anew in the kingdom of God.” ²⁶After they sang a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

^a22 A few witnesses to the text read *Take, eat*.

^b24 As in *last will and testament*. See Galatians 3:15.

Week Three: Mark 14:27-42

Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial

(Matthew 26:31-35; Luke 22:31-34; John 13:36-38)

²⁷Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away because of me. For it is written: ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’^a ²⁸But after I am raised, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.”

²⁹But Peter said to him, “Even if all fall away, I will not.”

³⁰Jesus said to him, “Amen I tell you: Today—this very night—before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.”

³¹But Peter kept saying emphatically, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you.” And they all said the same thing.

Gethsemane

(Matthew 26:36-46; Luke 22:39-46)

³²They went to a place named Gethsemane. Jesus told his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.”

³³Then he took Peter, James, and John along with him and began to be troubled and distressed.

³⁴He said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow, even to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch.”

³⁵Going forward a little, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. ³⁶He also said, “*Abba*, Father, everything is possible for you. Take this cup away from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”

³⁷When he returned to the disciples, he found them sleeping. He said to Peter, “Simon, are you sleeping? Were you not strong enough to keep watch for one hour? ³⁸Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

³⁹Again he went away and prayed, saying the same thing. ⁴⁰When he returned, he found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. They did not know what they should answer him. ⁴¹He returned the third time and said to them, “Are you going to continue sleeping and resting? It is enough. The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴²Rise, let us go. Look, my betrayer is near.”

^a27 Zechariah 13:7

Week Four: Mark 14:43-65

Jesus' Arrest

(Matthew 26:47-56; Luke 22:47-54; John 18:1-14)

⁴³Just then, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. A crowd was with him, armed with swords and clubs. They were from the chief priests, the experts in the law, and the elders. ⁴⁴Now his betrayer had given them a signal, saying, "The one I kiss is the man. Arrest him and lead him away under guard." ⁴⁵He went right to Jesus and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. ⁴⁶They laid hands on him and arrested him. ⁴⁷But one of those who stood nearby drew his sword, struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear.

⁴⁸Jesus responded by saying to them, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to capture me as you would a criminal? ⁴⁹Day after day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest me. But this happened so that the Scriptures may be fulfilled." ⁵⁰Then the disciples all left him and fled.

⁵¹A certain young man was following him, wearing just a linen cloth over his naked body. They seized him, ⁵²but he left behind the linen cloth and fled from them naked.

Jesus' First Trial in the Sanhedrin

(Matthew 26:57-68)

⁵³They led Jesus away to the high priest. All the chief priests, the elders, and the experts in the law gathered together. ⁵⁴Peter followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. He was sitting with the guards and warming himself at the fire.

⁵⁵The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for testimony against Jesus in order to put him to death, but they did not find any. ⁵⁶Many testified falsely against him, but their testimonies did not agree. ⁵⁷Some stood up and gave this false testimony against him: ⁵⁸"We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple made with hands, and in three days I will build another made without hands.'" ⁵⁹Yet even on this point, their testimony did not agree.

⁶⁰The high priest stepped forward^a and questioned Jesus, "Have you no answer? What is this they are testifying against you?"

⁶¹But Jesus was silent and did not answer anything.

Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?"

⁶²"I am," Jesus said. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power and coming with the clouds of heaven."^b

⁶³The high priest tore his robes and said, "Why do we need any more witnesses? ⁶⁴You have heard the blasphemy! What do you think?"

They all condemned him as being worthy of death. ⁶⁵Then some began to spit on him. They covered his face and struck him with their fists, saying, "Prophesy!" The guards also took him and beat him.

^a60 Or *stood up in front* (literally *in the center*)

^b62 Psalm 110:1; Daniel 7:13

Week Five: Mark 14:66 – 15:15

Peter Denies Jesus

(Matthew 26:69-75; Luke 22:54-62; John 18:15-18, 25-27)

⁶⁶While Peter was in the courtyard below, one of the servant girls of the high priest came there. ⁶⁷When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked directly at him and said, “You were also with the Nazarene, Jesus!”

⁶⁸But he denied it, saying, “I don’t know or understand what you are saying,” and he went out to the entryway. Then a rooster crowed.

⁶⁹When the servant girl saw him, once more she began to tell those standing there, “This is one of them.”

⁷⁰But again he denied it. After a little while those who were standing there said to Peter, “Surely you are one of them, because you are a Galilean.”

⁷¹But he began to curse and to swear, “I do not know this man you are talking about!” ⁷²Just then, the rooster crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said to him: “Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.” And he broke down and wept.

Jesus’ Trial in Pilate’s Court

(Matthew 27:11-14; Luke 23:1-4; John 18:28-38)

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests, along with the elders, the experts in the law, and the whole Sanhedrin, reached a decision. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. ²Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?”

He answered him, “It is as you say.”

³The chief priests accused him of many things. ⁴Pilate questioned him again, “Are you not going to answer anything? See how many charges they are bringing against you!”

⁵But Jesus still did not answer anything, so Pilate was amazed.

Barabbas or Jesus?

(Matthew 27:15-26; Luke 23:17-25; John 18:39-40)

⁶At each Festival, Pilate used to release to the people one prisoner whom they requested. ⁷There was one named Barabbas, who was imprisoned with the rebels and had committed murder in the rebellion. ⁸The crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do for them what he usually did.

⁹Pilate replied, “Do you want me to release the King of the Jews to you?” ¹⁰In fact, he knew that it was because of envy that the chief priests had handed him over.

¹¹But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas to them instead.

¹²Again, Pilate replied to them, “Then what do you want me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?”

¹³“Crucify him!” they shouted back.

¹⁴But Pilate said to them, “Why? What has he done wrong?”

But they shouted even louder, “Crucify him!”

¹⁵Since he wanted to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. After he had Jesus flogged, he handed him over to be crucified.

Week Six: Mark 15:16-47

Soldiers Mock Jesus

(Matthew 27:27-30; John 19:1-3)

¹⁶The soldiers led him away inside the palace, which is the Praetorium, and called together the whole cohort^a of soldiers. ¹⁷They put a purple robe on him, twisted together a crown of thorns, and put it on him. ¹⁸The soldiers began to salute him, “Hail, King of the Jews!” ¹⁹They kept hitting him on the head with a reed and spitting on him. They also kneeled down to pay homage to him.

The Crucifixion

(Matthew 27:31-44; Luke 23:26-43; John 19:16-27)

²⁰When they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothing on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

²¹A certain man, Simon of Cyrene (the father of Alexander and Rufus), was passing by on his way in from the country. They forced him to carry Jesus’ cross. ²²They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha, which means, “The place of a skull.” ²³They tried to give him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. ²⁴They crucified him. And they divided his garments, casting lots for them to decide what each of them would take.

²⁵Now it was the third hour^b when they crucified him. ²⁶The superscription stating the charge against him read, “The King of the Jews.” ²⁷They also crucified two criminals with him, one on his right and one on his left.^c

²⁹Those who passed by ridiculed him, shaking their heads and saying, “Ha! You who are going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, ³⁰save yourself! Come down from the cross!”

³¹In the same way the chief priests along with the experts in the law mocked him among themselves. “He saved others,” they said. “He cannot save himself. ³²Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross so that we may see and believe!”

Those who were crucified with him also insulted him.

Jesus’ Death

(Matthew 27:45-56; Luke 23:44-49; John 19:28-40)

³³When it was the sixth hour,^d darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour.^e ³⁴At the ninth hour Jesus shouted with a loud voice, “*Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?*” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”^f

³⁵When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “Listen, he’s calling Elijah!”

³⁶Someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. They said, “Leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to take him down.”

³⁷Jesus cried out with a loud voice and breathed his last. ³⁸The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. ³⁹When the centurion who stood facing him saw how he cried out and breathed his last, he said, “Truly this man was the Son of God!”

^a16 A Roman cohort was about six hundred soldiers.

^b25 9 AM

^c27 Some witnesses to the text include verse 28: *The Scripture was fulfilled, which says, “He was numbered with transgressors.”* See Luke 22:37, where its inclusion is certain.

^d33 Noon

^e33 3 PM

^f34 Psalm 22:1

⁴⁰There were also women watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. ⁴¹When he was in Galilee, they followed him and served him. Many other women also came up with him to Jerusalem.

Jesus' Burial

(Matthew 27:57-61; Luke 23:50-56; John 19:38-42)

⁴²It was already evening, and since it was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath), ⁴³Joseph from Arimathaea, a prominent member of the council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, boldly went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁴⁴Pilate was surprised that he was already dead. He summoned the centurion and asked him if Jesus had been dead for a long time. ⁴⁵When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he granted the body to Joseph. ⁴⁶Joseph bought a linen cloth, took him down, and wrapped him in the linen cloth. He laid him in a tomb that had been cut out of rock, and he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. ⁴⁷Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses were watching where the body was laid.

Three Year Series of lessons

Year A	Year B	Year C
Ash Wednesday lessons	Ash Wednesday lessons	Ash Wednesday lessons
Matthew 26:1-35	Mark 14:1-26	Luke 22:1-38
Matthew 26:36-56	Mark 14:27-42	Luke 22:39-54
Matthew 26:57-75	Mark 14:43-65	Luke 22:54-71
Matthew 27:1-26	Mark 14:66–15:15	Luke 23:1-25
Matthew 27:27-66	Mark 15:16-47	Luke 23:26-56

YEAR C

Week One: Ash Wednesday lessons are available at wartburgproject.org

Week Two: Luke 22:1-38

The Plot to Kill Jesus

(Matthew 26:1-5; Mark 14:1-2; John 11:45-57)

The Festival of Unleavened Bread, which is called the Passover, was approaching. ²The chief priests and the experts in the law were trying to find some way to put Jesus to death, because they were afraid of the people. ³Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, who was one of the Twelve. ⁴He went away and spoke with the chief priests and officers of the temple guard about how he could betray Jesus to them. ⁵They were glad and agreed to give him money. ⁶He promised to do it and was looking for an opportunity to betray Jesus to them away from the crowd.

Jesus Celebrates the Passover

(Matthew 26:17-20; Mark 14:12-17)

⁷The day of Unleavened Bread arrived, when it was necessary to sacrifice the Passover lamb. ⁸Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, “Go prepare the Passover for us, so that we may eat it.”

⁹They said to him, “Where do you want us to prepare it?”

¹⁰He told them, “Just as you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house that he enters. ¹¹Tell the owner of the house, ‘The Teacher says to you, “Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’” ¹²He will show you a large, furnished upper room. Make preparations there.” ¹³They went and found things just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

¹⁴When the hour had come, Jesus reclined at the table with the twelve apostles. ¹⁵He said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer, ¹⁶for I tell you, I will not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.”

¹⁷He took a cup, gave thanks, and said, “Take this and divide it among yourselves, ¹⁸for I tell you, from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”

The Lord’s Supper

(Matthew 26:26-30; Mark 14:22-26; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25)

¹⁹He took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁰In the same way, he took the cup after the supper, saying, “This cup is the new testament^a in my blood, which is being poured out for you.

One Will Betray Jesus

(Matthew 26:21-25; Mark 14:18-21; John 13:21-30)

²¹“But look, the hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table. ²²The Son of Man is going to go as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!”

²³They began to discuss with one another which of them it was who was going to do this.

Who Is Greatest?

²⁴A dispute arose among the disciples about which of them was considered to be greatest. ²⁵But he told them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who have authority over them are called Benefactors. ²⁶But it is not to be that way with you. Instead, let the greatest among you become like the youngest, and the one who leads like the one who serves. ²⁷For who is greater, one who reclines at the table or one who serves? Isn’t it the one who reclines at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. ²⁸You are those who have remained with me in my trials. ²⁹I am going to grant a kingdom to you, just as my Father granted to me, ³⁰so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom. And you will sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”

^a20 As in *last will and testament*. See Galatians 3:15.

Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial

(Matthew 26:31-35; Mark 14:27-31; John 13:36-38)

³¹The Lord said, "Simon, Simon, pay attention: Satan has asked to have you all, so that he may sift you as wheat. ³²But I prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have returned to me, strengthen your brothers."

³³He said to him, "Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death!"

³⁴But Jesus replied, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow today until you deny three times that you know me."

³⁵He said to them, "When I sent you out without money bag, traveler's bag, and sandals, did you lack anything?"

"Nothing," they said.

³⁶Then he told them, "But now, let the one who has a money bag take it, and likewise a traveler's bag. And let the one who has no sword sell his cloak and buy one. ³⁷For I tell you that this Scripture must be fulfilled in me: 'He was counted with transgressors.'^a Indeed, what is written about me is going to have its fulfillment."

³⁸They said, "Lord, look, here are two swords."

He said to them, "That is enough."

^a37 Isaiah 53:12

Week Three: Luke 22:39-54

Gethsemane

(Matthew 26:36-46; Mark 14:32-42)

³⁹Jesus left and went out to the Mount of Olives, as was his custom. His disciples followed him. ⁴⁰When he reached the place, he told them, “Keep praying that you may not enter into temptation.”

⁴¹He withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, knelt down, and prayed, ⁴²“Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours be done.”

⁴³An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. ⁴⁴As he was in agony, he prayed more fervently. His sweat became like great drops of blood falling to the ground.^a

⁴⁵When he rose from prayer, he went to the disciples and found them sleeping as a result of sorrow. ⁴⁶He said to them, “Why are you sleeping? Get up and keep praying so that you may not enter into temptation.”

Jesus’ Arrest

(Matthew 26:47-56; Mark 14:43-52; John 18:1-14)

⁴⁷While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd appeared, and the man called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He came near to Jesus to kiss him. ⁴⁸But Jesus said to him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”

⁴⁹When those who were around him saw what was about to happen, they said to him, “Lord, should we strike with a sword?” ⁵⁰Then one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear.

⁵¹But Jesus responded, “Stop! No more of this!” Then he touched the servant’s ear and healed him. ⁵²Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come out against him, “Have you come out as you would against a robber, with swords and clubs? ⁵³Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour—when darkness rules.”

⁵⁴Then they seized him, led him away, and brought him into the high priest’s house.

^a44 A few witnesses to the text omit verses 43-44.

Week Four: Luke 22:54-71

Peter Denies Jesus

(Matthew 26:69-75; Mark 14:66-72; John 18:15-18,25-27)

Peter followed at a distance. ⁵⁵When they had lit a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them. ⁵⁶A servant girl saw him sitting near the light. She looked closely at him and said, “This man also was with him.”

⁵⁷But he denied it, saying, “Woman, I do not know him.”

⁵⁸After a little while someone else saw him and said, “You also are one of them!”

But Peter answered, “Man, I am not!”

⁵⁹After about one hour had passed, someone else was firmly insisting, “Truly this man was with him too, because he is a Galilean!”

⁶⁰But Peter said, “Man, I don’t know what you are talking about!” At that very moment, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. ⁶¹The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the Lord’s word, how he had said to him, “Before the rooster crows today you will deny me three times.” ⁶²He went outside and wept bitterly.

The Guards Mock Jesus

⁶³The men who were holding Jesus in custody mocked him while they were beating him. ⁶⁴They blindfolded him and kept asking him, “Prophecy! Who hit you?” ⁶⁵And they went on saying many other blasphemous things against him.

Jewish Court

⁶⁶As soon as it was day, the council of the elders of the people met together, both the chief priests and experts in the law. They brought him into their Sanhedrin and said, ⁶⁷“If you are the Christ, tell us.”

But he said to them, “If I tell you, you will not believe, ⁶⁸and if I ask you, you will not answer me or release me. ^a⁶⁹But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God.”^b

⁷⁰They all said, “Are you then the Son of God?”

He said to them, “I am what you are saying.”

⁷¹Then they said, “Why do we need any more testimony? For we ourselves have heard it from his own mouth!”

^a68 A few witnesses to the text omit *or release me*.

^b69 Psalm 110:1

Week Five: Luke 23:1-25

Jesus' Trial in Pilate's Court

(Matthew 27:11-14; Mark 15:1-5; John 18:28-38)

The whole group of them got up and brought him before Pilate. ²They began to accuse him, saying, “We found this fellow misleading our nation, forbidding the payment of taxes to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king.”

³Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?”

“It is as you say,” Jesus replied.

⁴Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, “I find no basis for a charge against this man.”

⁵But they kept insisting, “He stirs up the people, teaching all through Judea, beginning from Galilee all the way here.”

Pilate Sends Jesus to Herod

⁶When Pilate heard this, he asked if the man was a Galilean. ⁷When he learned that he was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem during those days.

⁸When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad. For a long time, he had wanted to see him, because he had heard many things about him. He hoped to see some miracle performed by him.

⁹He questioned him with many words, but Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰The chief priests and the experts in the law stood there, vehemently accusing him. ¹¹Herod, along with his soldiers, treated him with contempt and ridiculed him. Dressing him in bright clothing, he sent him back to Pilate.

¹²Herod and Pilate became friends with each other on that day. Before this they had been enemies of each other.

¹³Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people, ¹⁴and said to them, “You brought this man to me as one who is misleading the people. Look, I have examined him in your presence. I have found in this man no basis for the charges you are bringing against him. ¹⁵Herod did not either, for he sent him back to us.^a See, he has done nothing worthy of death. ¹⁶So I will have him flogged and release him.”

Barabbas or Jesus?

(Matthew 27:15-26; Mark 15:6-15; John 18:39-40)

¹⁷Pilate needed to release one prisoner to them at the Festival.^b ¹⁸But they all shouted together with one voice: “Take him away! Release Barabbas to us!” ¹⁹Barabbas had been thrown in prison for a rebellion in the city and for murder.

²⁰Pilate addressed them again, because he wanted to release Jesus. ²¹But they kept shouting, “Crucify! Crucify him!”

²²He said to them the third time, “Why? What evil has he done? I have found no grounds for sentencing him to death. So I will whip him and release him.” ²³But they kept pressuring him with loud voices, demanding that he be crucified. And their voices^c were overwhelming. ²⁴So Pilate decided that what they demanded would be done. ²⁵He released the one they had asked for, who had been thrown in prison for rebellion and murder, but he handed Jesus over to their will.

^a15 Some witnesses to the text read *for I sent you to him*.

^b17 A few witnesses to the text omit verse 17. See Matthew 27:15 and Mark 15:6.

^c23 Some witnesses to the text add *and the voices of the high priests*.

Week Six: Luke 23:26-56

The Crucifixion

(Matthew 27:31-44; Mark 15:20-32; John 19:16-27)

²⁶As they led him away, they seized Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country. They placed the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. ²⁷A large crowd of people was following him, including women who were mourning and wailing for him. ²⁸Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, stop weeping for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹Be sure of this: The days are coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the childless women, the wombs that never gave birth, and the breasts that never nursed.’ ³⁰Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us!’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’^a ³¹For if they do these things to the green wood, what will happen to the dry?”

³²Two other men, who were criminals, were led away with Jesus to be executed.

³³When they came to the place called The Skull, they crucified him there with the criminals, one on his right and the other on his left.

³⁴Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”

They cast lots to divide his garments among them. ³⁵The people stood watching. The rulers were ridiculing him, saying, “He saved others. Let him save himself, if this is the Christ of God, the Chosen One!”

³⁶The soldiers also made fun of him. Coming up to him, they offered him sour wine, ³⁷saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!”

³⁸There was also an inscription written above him: “This is the King of the Jews.”

³⁹One of the criminals hanging there was blaspheming him, saying, “Aren’t you the Christ? Save yourself and us!”

⁴⁰But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God, since you are under the same condemnation? ⁴¹We are punished justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for what we have done, but this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴²Then he said, “Jesus, remember me^b when you come in^c your kingdom.”

⁴³Jesus said to him, “Amen I tell you: Today you will be with me in paradise.”

Jesus’ Death

(Matthew 27:45-56; Mark 15:33-41; John 19:28-37)

⁴⁴It was now about the sixth hour,^d and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour,^e ⁴⁵while the sun was darkened. Then the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!”^f When he had said this, he breathed his last.

⁴⁷When the centurion saw what had happened, he began to glorify God, saying, “This man really was righteous.” ⁴⁸When all the groups of people who had gathered to see this spectacle saw what had happened, they returned home beating their chests. ⁴⁹All those who knew Jesus, and the women who followed with him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Jesus’ Burial

(Matthew 27:57-61; Mark 15:42-47; John 19:38-42)

^a30 Hosea 10:8

^b42 Some witnesses to the text read *Then he said to Jesus, “Remember me, Lord. . . .”*

^c42 A few witnesses to the text read *into*.

^d44 Jewish time began with sunrise, so the sixth hour was about noon.

^e44 3 PM

^f46 Psalm 31:5

⁵⁰Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea, who was a member of the Council, a good and righteous man. ⁵¹He had not agreed with their plan and action. He was looking forward to the kingdom of God. ⁵²This man went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. ⁵³He took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and placed it in a tomb that was cut out of rock, where no one had yet been laid. ⁵⁴It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was beginning. ⁵⁵The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed after Joseph, and they observed the tomb and how his body was laid there. ⁵⁶Then they returned and prepared spices and perfumes. On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.